PAPER MONEY

Official Journal of the Society of Paper Money Collectors

Vol. XL, No. 6

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November/December 2001





Remember Pearl Harbor

WWII Left Us Short Snorters

Short Snort • er / snort-er / n [*short* snort (quick drink)]

1: a member of an informal club for which one who has made a transoceanic flight is eligible. 2: a piece of paper money endorsed by short snorters as a membership certificate for a new member.

-- Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

"When Carole Landis and Pat O'Brien got together on the set of Pilebuck (released as Secret Command), the picture they are appearing in at Columbia, they pulled their 'Short Snorter' bills on each other. The result was amazing. Carole and Pat, who both have recently returned from overseas personal appearances, found that their combined strings of bills were long enough to drape Carole attractively in the currency of some 35 countries." -- actual caption attached to the back of a movie promotional still photo c. 1944.

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FRED L. REED III, Editor, P.O. Box 793941, Dallas, TX 75379 Visit the SPMC web site: www.spmc.org

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On the Cover -

Secret Command was a fast-paced espionage story set in a California shipyard. O'Brien played a foreign correspondent in the wartime employ of the FBI assigned to thwart potential Nazi saboteurs. Landis played his undercover 'wife.' The movie proved a great success and was nominated for an Oscar in 1945. Too old to serve in World War II, O'Brien, and co-star Landis both tirelessly undertook many potentially dangerous USO tours to entertain Gls. Landis, who contracted malaria on one such tour, memorialized her trips with the book Four Jills in A Jeep, which became a Fox film in 1944.

Society of Paper Money Collectors



The Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC) was organized in 1961 and incorporated in 1964 as a non-profit organization under the laws of the District of Columbia. It is affiliat-

ed with the American Numismatic Association. The annual SPMC meeting is held in June at the Memphis IPMS (International Paper Money Show). Up-to-date information about the SPMC and its activities can be found on its Internet web site www.spmc.org.

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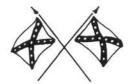
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Souvenirs, Personal Documents & Immortality

By Neil Shafer, LM30

LOVE SHORT SNORTERS! NOT ONLY HAVE I BEEN GATHering these homeless waifs up every time I see them (practically), I've written about them for years, first in the *Whitman Numismatic Journal* in the 1960s and several times in *Bank Note Reporter* as well. And believe me, those good signatures are really out there waiting for YOU to find them, too!

I have been lucky that way, having found movie stars, political figures, high-ranking military individuals among others. One of the best turned out to be a lone signature on a small Italian note of World War II vintage. That signature was only Humphrey Bogart, and I had Scott Winslow authenticate it for me. He said it's quite a rare one because he is so well known even today. By the way, that finding occurred, would you believe, within the last year!!!

The special significance of a short snorter, single or roll, is that such items meant something very special to the original owner(s), and we who find them later on can only try to capture a little of that feeling and meaning they represented at one time.

In these pages I'll share some of my finds with you. Each was a joy in its own way. Good Hunting!

There are many kinds of world notes with inscribed signatures or some other kinds of written messages. The contents of the written words can determine the rough classification of such notes, but whichever way they are classified, invariably they have all been the bearers of some sort of personal testimonial that someone, someplace, felt obliged to put on a piece of paper currency.

By far the majority of these pieces are known to collectors as Short Snorters -- notes with one or more

names, often in a row, and usually found attached to others of similar appearance. The name itself is defined two ways, as follows: (a) A member of an informal club for which a pilot, crew member or a passenger who has made a transoceanic flight is eligible; (b) A piece of paper money endorsed by short snorters as a membership certificate for a new member.

It seems that the idea of a Short Snorter club sprang up during the earlier days of flight when transoceanic travel was still considered something of a feat. As the definition indicates, it became the custom for older members of this vaguely defined club (usually the crew members of an airplane) to sign their names on a single piece of paper money which then served as the owner's "membership card," to be permanently retained and shown on demand. Failure to produce that signed note at any time meant that a penalty had to be paid, generally a dollar or a drink (short snort). From this practice the term itself is derived.



While not as glamorous as Carole Landis on this issue's cover, author Shafer never the less cuts a swash-buckling figure modelling a lengthy Short Snorter roll of his own at the 1st Memphis International Paper Money Show in 1977.



Figures 1a & 1b. Here is what a typical Short Snorter note looks like. The only distinguishing feature on this note is one of the first vertically placed signature at top -- it looks like Bob Hope to me! (It is.) Shown enlarged at right.

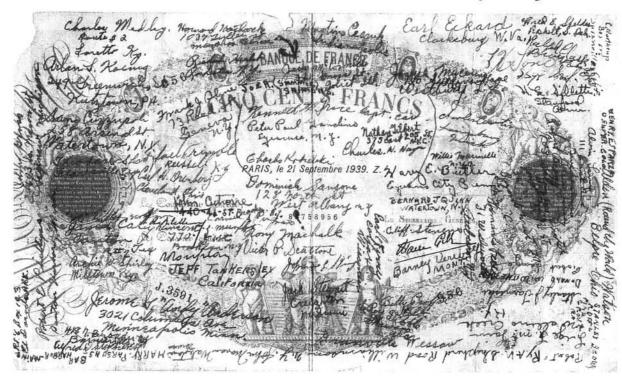
Figure 2. This large French note with all its World War II signatures has to be the epitome of the single-bill concept.



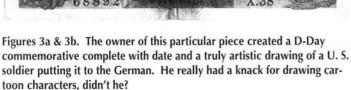
The casual and slow growth of this exclusive club was abruptly shattered by the entry of the United States into the conflagration of World War II. Overnight many thousands of servicemen in every branch of the service became involuntary candidates, and the evidence shows that a great many of them were more than glad to accept the responsibilities of membership.

It was often the case that a particular individual would be assigned to a number of locations around the world during his tour of duty. Though the original concept included the signing of only a single note as the Short Snorter, the member would soon find that one bill was just not providing enough room for him to gather the signatures of his buddies who were also Short Snorters.

The solution was simply to start Scotch taping all sorts of notes gathered during his world travels together end on end, creating rolls sometimes reaching massive lengths of eight or ten feet! Now there was space enough for hundreds









of names -- and that is exactly what you can find on many of these rolls of bills.

Signature exchange became a ritual indulged in by everyone, including many famous individuals such as entertainers, actors, actresses and others who were sent to military bases all over the world by the U.S.O. Often obtaining such signatures was accomplished with surprising ease, because it seemed everyone wanted to sign these notes. Some even included personal messages with their names, thus adding to the fun.

But was it all in good ol' fun? My own belief is that there was some underlying feeling on the part of most signers that they were doing it at least in part because they wanted to achieve a bit of inner immortality. Without really expressing it, they may have feared that if they did not return from some battle, the proof that "they were there" would not exist anywhere else, so here was their signature to prove that they had indeed been there.

That feeling must account for the great personal value their owners felt for such notes. These pieces were carried everyplace, becoming more and more abused from the cheap Scotch tape plus rough handling by so many GI's. Yet they stand today as a testimonial to the endurance of the human spirit if nothing more. And therein lies the great personal importance they engendered to their original owners, a feeling that we can only empathize with today as we come across them scattered here and there.

Numismatically and historically there are other aspects that come into play when discussing the subject of Short Snorters. It is often true that some





Figures 4a & 4b. This pair of Fractional Currency souvenir notes should also be considered a part of the Short Snorter concept even though they predate the advent of the name by many years.





Figures 5a & 5b. Any note was eligible to be transformed into a Short Snorter. This French assignat of 1792 is the oldest piece I have ever seen to emanate from World War II as a souvenir.

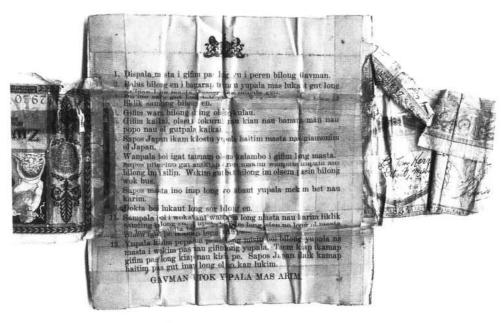
great notes are a part of a roll of bills, heavily taped, and at times with names or other messages written on them. Two facts come to mind: First, if not for their having been included on the roll or used as a single-note messenger of some kind, they would probably not exist any longer. Second, the very way they are used may prove to be of great significance. Let me demonstrate.

Some of the illustrations easily prove the first of these two points. The second is more elusive, but it can also be shown. Take a look at the small roll of notes with the French 20-franc piece featuring a fisherman. Now notice that it also carries the infamous head of Hitler (from a postage stamp) at the lower left corner. If you examine the note carefully you will see that it looks like the fisherman is strangling *Der Fuehrer*. Well, that is the way it was supposed to look - certainly an interesting sort of propaganda note.

But it's no good unless we can prove it is contemporary. Anyone can take the very common French note and attach very common stamp pieces right now. So it is worth nothing much except if you can prove you have a genuine piece made during the war. On this particular example it happens that there are small slits in the note where the rope is, and part of the neck is inserted underneath to give the effect of strangling.

That is how it was supposed to have been prepared, according to a letter printed by *Time* magazine in the September 4, 1944, issue. Along with an illustration of a similar example, the letter reads as follows:

Figure 6. Sometimes really great items have been caught on a Short Snorter roll. Here is a fine example, a leaflet in Pidgin English originally dropped over areas like New Guinea in order to tell inhabitants how to assist downed airmen.



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Short Snorter Looms as Menace

By John Steinbeck

By telephone to the *New York Herald* SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA. (VIA LONDON) -- SEP. 7, 1943 -- The growth of the Short Snorters is one of the greatest single menaces to come out of the war so far.

The idea started as a kind of a joke in a time when very few people flew over an ocean in an airplane. It became the custom, then for the crew of the airplane to sign their names on a one dollar bill which made the new; ocean flyer a Short Snorter. He was supposed to keep this bill always with him. If at any time he were asked if he were a Short Snorter, and he did not have his signed bill with him he was forced to pay a dollar to each member present at the time when the question was asked.

It was good fun and a kind of general joke and also it was a means of getting someone to pay for the drinks.

But then came the war and the building of thousands of ships and the transporting of thousands of men overseas by airplane and every single one became a Short Shorter. There are hundreds of thousands of Short Snorters now who have actually flown over an ocean, and there are further hundreds of thousands who carry a signed bill. And the new Short Snorter goes much farther than having his bill signed by the crew which carried him on his initial crossing. The custom has grown to have the bill signed by everyone you come across. At a bar you ask your drinking companion to sign your bill. You ask generals and actors and Senators to sign your bill.

With the growing autographing, one bill soon was not enough. You procured another bill and stuck it with Scotch tape to your first bill. Then the thing went farther. You began to collect bills from other countries. To your American dollar bill, you stuck a one-pound English note, and to it a 50-franc Algerian note, and to it a hundred-lira bill. Every place you went you stuck the money to your growing Short Snorter until now there are people who have streamers eight and 10 feet long, which folded and rolled, make a great bundle in the pocket, and these streamers are covered with thousands of names and represent besides considerable money. Even the one dollar original is disappearing. Many new Short Snorters use \$20 bills, and some even \$100 bills.

These are the new autograph books. The original half of the joke has been lost. In bars, in airports, in

clubs, the first thing that must be done is a kind of general exchange of signatures. Serious and intelligent gentlemen sign one another's bills with an absolute lack of humor. If the party is fairly large it might take an hour before every one has signed the bill of every one else. Meanwhile the soup gets cold.

There are favorite places on the bill for honored and desirable autographs. The little space under Morgenthau's name is one such. The wide space beside the portrait on the bill is another. If you get an autograph you want to show you have it written on a clear space, but if it is just one of the run-of the-mill signatures it is put any place in the green part where it hardly shows up at all. It is a frantic, serious-minded, insane thing.

Men of dignity scramble for autographs on their Short Snorts. A special case, usually made of cellophane, is sometimes carried to house the bill, or the long streamer of bills because these treasures are handled so much that they would fall to pieces if they were not protected.

The effort and time involved in this curious thing is immense. Entertainers who travel about to our troops sign literally thousands of Short Snorter bills. For no longer do people have to fly an ocean to be members. The new method is that any Short Snorter can create a new Short Snorter. The club is pyramiding. Probably there are 10,000,000 Short Snorters now, and every day new thousands begin to scribble on their bills. It would be interesting to know how many bills are withdrawn from circulation to be used as autograph books. They must run into the millions.

The use of large bills as Short Snorter bills has a curious logic behind it. The man or woman who used a \$20 or \$100 bill feels that he or she will not spend this money because of the signatures on it, but he also feels that if he needs to he can spend it. Thus he has a nest egg or mad money and a treasure, too. He will not toss it over a bar nor put it in a crap game, but if he really should get into a hole he has this money with him

Very curious practices grow out of a war and surely none more strange than this one has taken over the public recently.

This article appeared in *Los Angeles Examiner* Reprinted from *MPCGram*, mpcgram@yahoo.com, Series 002 Number 169, (Friday, 17 November 2000).



Hitler Throttled

"Sirs: Take a good look at the enclosed French 20 franc note (see cut). It's one of the cleverest methods of subtle noncollaboration I can imagine. The French people who gave it to me said that millions of these were circulating around while the Germans were here....The effect is produced by inserting a German postage-stamp portrait of Hitler behind the French fisherman's rope. -- (Pfc.) Leslie Lieber"

Commenting on the above letter, I would say Pfc. Lieber (and those who told him about the wide circulation of the note) were certainly exaggerating greatly -- there were not "millions" of these pieces as shown, otherwise we would have seen many more on the market. But as mentioned earlier, they are very easy to manufacture. The only ones that are really worthwhile are any of them that can be proven genuine products of the period.

Several factors prove that the one on the roll is in fact a genuine wartime product. First, closer examination of this piece showed that two small slits had actually been made on either side of the rope so that the neck could be inserted through both of them. Second, there is old Scotch tape over a part of Hitler's head. Third, there is a handwritten inscription about "...thanks for our liberation" signed by a Frenchman on the face, and a penned date of "28-1-45" on the back. It is certainly possible that the much simpler method of sticking the head onto the note without making the slits was also used for some of these; I do not know. All I can say for sure is that we have at least one that is absolutely real.

Most of the Short Snorter notes I have seen are from United States personnel and written in English. Of course, there were some who wrote in foreign languages, but by and large they are in English. This makes me wonder if servicemen from other countries Figures 7a & 7b. Here is a rather small roll of notes illustrating a French 20-franc note bearing the head of Hitler at lower left. It turns out to be a genuine propaganda piece from the war (see discussion). Below: Letter to the Editor regarding this type of note alteration published in *Time* magazine, Sept. 4, 1944.

Hitler Throttled

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postage-stamp portrait of Hitler behind the French fisherman's rope.

(PFC.) LESLIE LIEBER

c/o Postmaster New York City







Figures 9a, 9b & 9c. Collecting signatures was and still is a part of the game. Someone got Jack Benny and Larry Adler to sign the note from Egypt. I'm sure you recognize the single signature on the English 10 shillings (Joe Louis), and none other than Harry Truman placed his name on the dollar.

Figures 10a & 10b. War history is forever recorded at the scene by participants in the event itself. Some examples in my collection record V-E Day on a French Allied Military Currency note, the invasion of bloody Iwo Jima (below), and notes naming Hiroshima and Nagasaki, such as the one shown at right. also took to the Short Snorter habit. While I have never encountered a roll of bills from an obviously foreign source, I believe that a good many of them did at least pursue the preparation of single notes as souvenirs of various kinds.

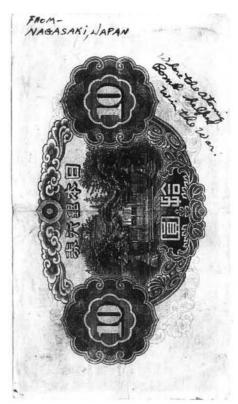
The above description applies to a majority of the notes found with inscriptions. In the main, those that fit contain signatures of buddies, famous individuals, or whoever else could be convinced to sign. Certainly all the rolls

of notes made for the purpose truly belong to this group. But there are other kinds of notes with varying messages that really do not conform to most of the above considerations.

Let's look at a few of them in some detail.

Many inscribed notes are found as singles, often with the avowed purpose of serving as a souvenir of the place of origin. Their makers came from a wide variety of locales,





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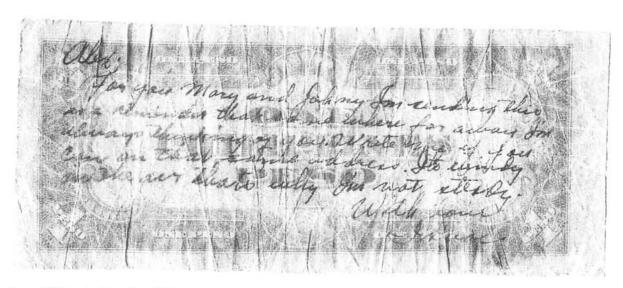
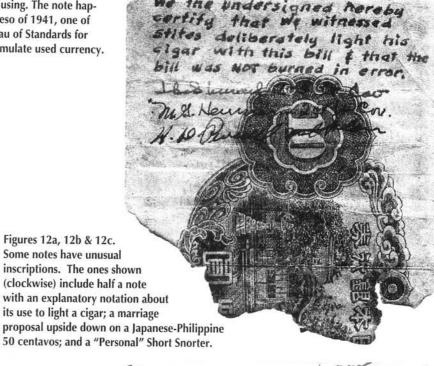
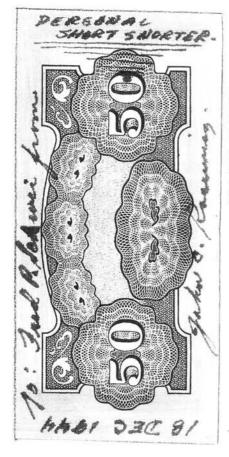


Figure 11 (above). The writer of this letter home had no idea how good a souvenir he was using. The note happens to be a Philippine wartime peso of 1941, one of those rare pieces sent to the Bureau of Standards for "aging" during World War II to simulate used currency.











Figures 13a & 13b. Apparently some of the major airlines saw fit to prepare notes for use as Short Snorters. The one at far left is from Northwest; I have also seen them from TWA. Any others? People from other lands also participated in the Short Snorter experience. Most likely this one at left with Chinese inscription meant something very special to its original owner.

Figure 14. This English military issue caught a few signatures, especially the two-for-one name of "Edgar Bergen and Charlie" (third one down at left).

ranging from the Civil War to the Mexican border fighting to private souvenir usages from many venues. Because they were thus used, they are not regularly seen as an attached unit in a large roll of notes. These pieces were frequently sent home to loved ones in a letter, thereby separating them totally from other similar kinds of pieces.

It appears that in many instances any notes from everywhere were sent home as substitutes for holiday greeting cards, obviously unavailable to service personnel in most places during the war. You can find a fairly large number of holiday greeting notes, and practically all seem to come from the Asian theaters of war. I speculate this phenomenon results from the fact that fighting during island-hopping in the Pacific was more sporadic, thereby allowing such notes to be prepared more easily than in Europe where fighting might be continuous throughout the continent with no particular letup.

There is one final point of discussion I want to make. The Short Snorter nomenclature has been expanded here to include most of the different kinds of notes shown and described. But what about souvenirs and inscribed notes that predate the invention and development of the airplane? How do we treat Fractional Currency or Confederate notes so used? Conversely, where do we place the modern souvenir notes so many of us are constantly manufacturing (e.g.,





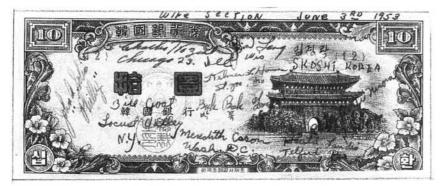
Figures 15a & 15b. During the formation of NATO there were special meetings at various times and places. This pair of Turkish notes was carefully prepared to serve as factual souvenirs of the Military and Naval Survey Group meeting there in 1947. Faces and backs of both notes were similarly used for all the different names of the participants.

obtaining signatures of Treasury officials or other well-known individuals)? Technically they might never be thought of as Short Snorters in the real sense because they are just too early or too late; yet I feel that since we have allowed inclusion for all the rest, it stands to reason that any and all such notes, from whatever period, should be given the same status. Do you agree?

Want to make a collection of such pieces? You can find them almost anyplace, from various auctions to the proverbial miscellaneous boxes of low-priced notes. Just remember that every one of them meant something very special to their original owners, and when you happen upon an example, you now have the privilege of renewing its unique status as something a little more than just a piece of paper money with graffiti.

It's a bit like saving a part of someone's very soul.





Figures 16a & 16b. This pair from the Korean War includes a 'normal' type of Short Snorter (left) with a self-proclaimed commemorative for the 186th Anniversary Finance Corps U.S. Army (above).

Figure 17. I leave you with this Gaelic wish as found on an Irish wartime one pound note of 1944. Its sentiment is beautifully presented, and it is one of my favorites.



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An Interesting Dallas Deuce

N APRIL 13, 1976, THE FIRST SMALL SIZE \$2 Federal Reserve Notes were issued to the public. To commemorate this event, the U.S. Post Office allowed for the cancellation of currency on a hand-back basis as long as first class postage was attached to the note, which was thirteen cents at the time.

This was how it was supposed to be, however many examples can be found of notes with less than thirteen cents or no postage at all. Perhaps newer entrants into the field of currency collecting have seen a few of these notes at shows and have wondered what those odd items are.

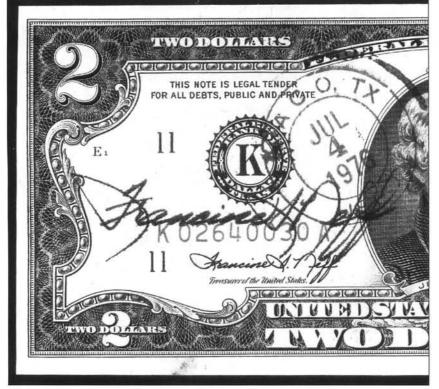
Another big cancellation date for collectors was the Bicentennial of the United States, July 4, 1976. Besides being a holiday, the date fell on a Sunday, so post offices would not normally be open. However, a few post offices were allowed to be open in each state to mark the special occasion.

In Texas, the following cities had post offices open for July 4, 1976: Anderson, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston and Lufkin. However, a few temporary post offices were set up in certain locations.

There were also some 24-hour service locations not shown on the official list of post offices open on July 4, 1976, that were indeed open.

The note pictured is an interesting note. It was not only autographed in brown ink by Francine I. Neff, Treasurer of the U.S., but was canceled afterwards (the cancellation to the left of the Jefferson portrait is on top of the autograph) at Waco, Texas on July 4, 1976, twice:





once without postage and once with a thirteen cent stamp.

The Liberty Bell stamp of the era ties in nicely with the Bicentennial theme of the note. This must have been a 24 hour service location or a temporary post office for the Bicentennial.

Postally canceling such notes (\$1 and \$2 notes were the denominations of choice) was done for a few years after the Bicentennial, limited only by the collector's imagination.

This specialty was both numismatic and philatelic and therefore neither. It eventually died out. The rise in canceling souvenir cards may have been helped by these relics of the Bicentennial era.

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Work Done for ABNCo by James D. Smillie from 1858-1879 Concluded

Compiled by Gene Hessler and Mark Tomasko

Continued from Paper Money September/October 2001, page 315



Camping on the Pampas, #618

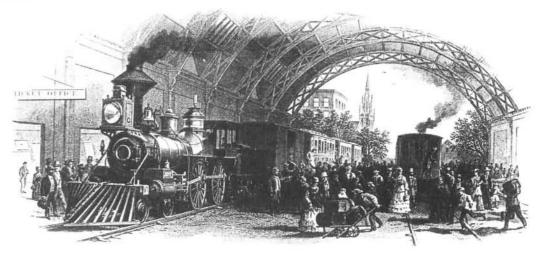
No.	Title	Artist	Engraver(s)
618	Camping on the Pampas	J. Smillie	
	Bond: Butte & Boston Mining Co. 1897 Bank note: Argentina, Banco de la Prov	7. 7. De Buenos Aires, unknown denomination.	
622	Bull, Buenos Ayres Bank note: Argentina 5 pesos, PS482 an	JDS nd Hawaii \$100, P15 eng. by James Smillie.)	(J.) Smillie
625	Pampas Horse	JDS	JDS
	Bank notes: Argentina 10 pesos, PS485 Bond: Chile, Banco Agricola 1888.	& 2 pesos, PS536.	



Saladero, #630

630	Saladero Bank note: Argentina 500 pesos, PS497.	JDS	(J.) Smillie			
631	Gaucho with Guitar Bank note: Argentina 50 pesos, PS488-490.	JDS	C. Burt			
633	Arkansas Arms Bond: Little Rock RR 1883; Stock certificate: Li	JDS ittle Rock, Mississippi River & Texas Rwy	J. Smillie 1881.			
635	[Sheep's Head]	d] JDS J. Smilli				
641	Sheep under the Ombu Bank note: Argentina 5 pesos, PS1916, and Brazi	JDS 1 100 mil reis, PS553.	J. Smillie			
645	Sheep under the Oak Bank note: Mexico 20 pesos, PS129. Stock certificate: United States Worsted Co.	JDS	J. Smillie			

No.	Title	Artist	Engraver(s)
658	Arms of Iowa Bonds: CBO R 1881; Col. Fuel Co. 18	JDS 89. Stock certificate: Buchtel Iron Co. 1880.	H.L. Chorlton
659	Depot	JDS & M.S. Rwy Co. 1879; 1880 (stock certificate).	J. Smillie
660	Mount Hood Bond: Northern Pacific Rwy ca. 1870 a	JDS and later. (This became their standard vignette.)	J. Smillie
665	Steam, Infancy & Progress [Emblem: ships, sailing and	JDS I steam, and train]	J. Smillie
673	Golden Gate Bonds: California Redwood Co. 1883; Stock certificate: Emporium Corp. 192		(J.) Smillie
677	Arms of Mississippi	JDS	(J.) Smillie
679	Lowell Water Works Bond: City of Lowell.	JDS	J. Smillie



The New Depot, #682

682	The New D	epot	JDS	J. Smillie
	Bank note: I	Banco Nacional del Para	aguay 200 pesos (back), PS152.	
	Bonds: nume	erous railroads including	g Union Terminal Rwy Co. of the City of Buffalo, 1884.	

684 Locomotive unknown JDS

Bank notes: Banco Mejicano 1 peso, PS146; Banco Nacional de Mexico 1 peso, PS255.

Bonds & stock certificates: numerous railroads including Michigan Central RR registered and coupon bond 1881.

688 Arms of Kansas JDS J. Smillie Bonds: Atchison, Colorado & Pacific 1879; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Rwy 1880.

691 Union Dime Savings Bank N.Y. JDS J. Bannister

692 Arms of Colorado JDS
Bond: Moose Mining Co. 1880. Stock certificate: Adams Mining Co. 1883.

693 Banco Trujillo [Peru Arms] JDS R. Hinshelwood Bank note: Peru 1 sol, PS402 & PS414.

694 Arms of Ecuador JDS
Bank notes: Banco del Ecuador 1883, 100 pesos, PS195A.
Bond: Banco de Credito Hipotecario 1882.

Bill of exchange: Banco de Quito 1879.

700 [Railroad] JDS J

[Railroad] JDS JDS

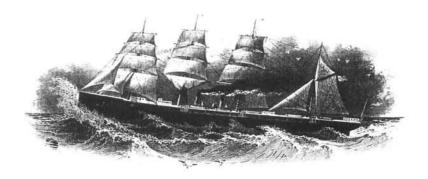
Bonds: 1884: Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Rwy; Chicago, Freeport & St. Paul Rwy; Litchfield, Carrolton & Western RR.

704 [City of Boston Arms] JDS J. Smillie

706 Banco Franco Platense [Uruguay arms] unknown
Bank notes: Uruguay 10 & 20 pesos, PS172 & 173.

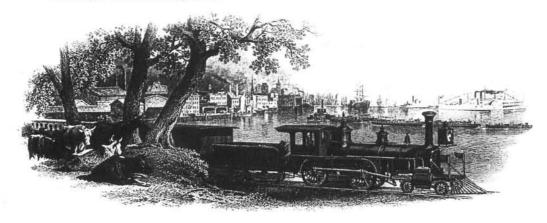
(JDS)

No. Title Artist Engraver(s) 707 West Virginia Arms JDS G.J. Verbeck, S Coupon bonds: West Virginia & Central Pittsburgh Rwy 1881; General Refractories Co. 1916.	
Stock certificates: West Virginia & Central Pittsburgh Rwy 1881; Chesapeake & Ohio RR 1885; Cook Inlet Coal	ıl Fields Co.
709 Argentine Republic [arms] JDS G.J. Verbeck, S Stock certificate: Banco Nacional 1881.	Sr.
710 Progress JDS J. Smillie (Two Indians on hill looking down at train.) Coupon bonds: Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Rwy Co. 1880; Denver Rio Grande Western Rwy Co. 1881; Kan:	asas Pacific Ruy
Co. 1879, and many other bonds and stock certificates.	isas i acine rewy
717 [Water Carrier] JDS J. Smillie Bank note: Peru 5 soles, PS313.	
722 Un Sol - Peru JDS G.J. Verbeck, S	Sr.
725 The Little Joker JDS G.J. Verbeck, S U.S. Postal Panel: for the Christmas stamp The Hobby Horse 18 Oct. 1978.	Sr.
726 Illimani [mountain scene] JDS J. Smillie	
728 Valparaiso JDS G.J. Verbeck, S Coupon bond: Chile Municipalidad de Valaparaiso 1879.	Sr.
730 Mule Train No. 2 JDS J. Smillie Bank note: Colombia 50 pesos, PS387. Stock certificate: Bushwacker Mining Co. 1891.	
731 Atlanta St. Raiul Road JDS G.J. Verbeck, S Ticket: Compania Urbana Parense 1892.	Sr.
733 Arms of Valparaiso JDS G.J. Verbeck, S Coupon bond: Chile, Municipilidad de Valparaiso 1879.	Sr.
735 [Medallion] JDS J. Smillie Cincinnati Industrial Exposition Award 1872 (8 April 1872 in diary).	
755 Lassoing Cattle No. 2 JDS L. Delnoce Bank note: Hawaiian Islands \$10, P1.	
777 South American Ostrich Hunting JDS J. Smillie Bank note: Argentina 104, P6, Argentina, Banco Provincia de Santa Fe 10 pesos, PS816.	
780 Locomotive JDS J. Smillie Coupon bonds 1882: Burlington & Ohio River Rwy 1882; Chicago & Northwestern Rwy. Stock certificate: Chicago, Burlington & Quincy RR 1883. (Numerous uses of this subject.)	
784 [FNB of NY trademark] JDS J. Smillie	
788 Trademark [FNB NY] JDS J. Smillie	
792 Salina, Kansas JDS (from photo) J. Smillie Draft: John Geis & Co.	
796 Florida Arms JDS J. Smillie	
799 Llama Train No. 4 JDS J. Smillie Bank note: Argentina, Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires 1886 (probably PS561).	
800 Arms of Prov. of Santa Fe JDS J. Smillie Bank note: Banco de la Provincial de Santa Fe 1882 (probably PS826-835).	
801 Reaper in S.A. JDS J. Smillie Bank note: Nicaragua 5 pesos, PS108	
802 [Steam thresher] JDS H. Beckwith	
808 [Eagle on Shield] JDS J. Smillie	
810 Gaucho Lassoing (JDS) J. Smillie & W. Bank note: Argentina 500 pesos, PS544.	.W. Rice



City of Tokio PMSS Co., #812

No.	Title	Artist	Engraver(s)		
812	City of Tokio PMSS Co. (Steamship) Bank note: Argentina 200 pesos, PS510 & PS543. Stock certificate: Pacific Mail Steamship Co. 1876 Coupon bond: Tehauntepec Inter-Ocean RR Co.	9.	J. Smillie		
813	Arms of Alabama Coupon bond: State of Alabama 1880; East & We Stock certificate: Georgia Pacific Rwy Co. 1882.	JDS est RR 1882; City of Mobile 1880.	J. Smillie		
817	Montevideo [tanning hides] Bank note: Uruguay 20 pesos, PA105.	JDS	J. Smillie		
826	Buckeye Reaper Coupon bond: Atchison, Colorado & Pacific Rwy Stock certificate: Great Northern Rwy 1929.	JDS 1879; NY, Lackawanna West Rwy 1880.	J. Smillie		
828	Bacchus Bank note: Colombia 100 pesos, P218; Mexico 50	JDS pesos, PS158. (See 29 June 1875)	F. Girsch		
833	[Horse's head] Coupon bond: Cleveland, Belt Line Rwy Co. 189	JDS 0; California Fruit, Grain & Grazing Co. 1	J. Smillie 1892.		
849	Condor - Chile Bank note: Bolivia 1 bol., PS205; Colombia 1, 5, 1 Coupon bond: Oregon Rwy & Navigation Co. 1880.		J. Smillie pesos, PS334 & PS335.		
852	Large Condor Bank note: Banco Nacional de Chile 1882; Colon	JDS abia 50 pesos, PS585.	J. Smillie		
853	[Arms of Chile]	JDS	G.F.C. Smillie		
855	Illimani No. 2 Bank note: Bolivia 100 bol., PS204.	JDS	J. Smillie		



The Harbor, #859

The Harbor [RR scene] JDS J. Smillie
Coupon bond: Atlantic & Pacific RR Co. 1886; Central Pacific RR Co.; Chesapeake, Ohio & Southwestern RR 1881 and others.

878 Bottom of the Shaft JDS (J.) Smillie
Bonds: Cahaba Coal Mining Co. 1884; Cameron Coal Co. 1883; Chicago & Northern Rwy Co. 1881; Spring Valley Coal Co. 1885.

Acknowledgement

Appreciation is extended to Brucia Witthoft, PhD, Mark D. Tomasko for providing numerous illustrations, Walter Allan, and to William Barrett for providing photos from the ABNCo presentation book to Alexander, II, Emperor of Russia.

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Every Short Snorter Has Its Own Tale(s) to Tell

By Colonel Bill Murray

AM ALWAYS INTERESTED IN REFERENCES to Short Snorters. Mine, long lost and sadly so, contained only three notes, but some interesting signatures. The exact date of its inception, I'm unsure, but it was in late 1942, early 1943. I was a passenger on board a Gooney Bird from Milne Bay, British New Guinea to Port Moresby. When we landed, I had to await transportation and was taken by the crew (pilot and co-pilot) to an officers' club near the strip.

They asked if I had my Short Snorter. I not only

did not have it, I didn't know what they were talking about. They then proceeded to tell me that you were "authorized" one (maybe not their exact words, but close) when you had crossed an ocean in an Army

aircraft, and if you didn't have yours to show, you bought a round of drinks.

I said, "I haven't crossed an ocean in an aircaft," and they responded, "You just did. Order up." I did not think following the coast of the Coral Sea off new Guinea for 200 miles or so constituted "crossing an ocean," but I was a ground pounder in their club, so I ordered up.

Since then, I have seen and heard many reasons for joining the the "Short Snorter" fraternity. However, I am convinced the real reason behind all of the various stories, is purely

and simply a desire to generate free drinks and espirit.

My first bill, as is often the case was a \$1 U.S. That was shortly followed by a 10 shilling Australian note, and then a Dutch New Guinea, 1 guilder. Oddly enough that was the end of my Short Snorter. What happened to it I don't know, but the signatures included General Douglas MacArthur, who signed it at a conference I attended, and Dick Bong, the first American Ace to exceed Rickenbacker's aircraft kills. Bong ended up with 40 kills of Japanese aircraft before they took him out of combat for his protection only for him to die in the U. S, test flying a P-80.

By Larry "Ski" Smulczenski

I HAVE LOOKED AT THOUSANDS OF SHORT snorter notes over the years, and the number of names that I could identify could be counted on my fingers. Yes, I have seen some notes in auction catalogs that have been signed by famous people like President Franklin Roosevelt or General Dwight Eisenhower or General George Patton. I even own one that was sold to me by good friend R. A. Medina, a 1929 1 peso note from the Philippines that it signed by C. L. Chennault of Flying Tiger fame and three other military officers.

Were these others members of the famed Flying Tigers? Or since it was a Philippine note could it have been created by an aircrew flying Chennault from China to the Philippines to meet with MacArthur? If only the note could tell its story!

Many of the names that you recognize on notes

are entertainers who performed during USO shows for the troops. Probably the person who autographed the largest number of short snorters was the famous comedian Joe E. Brown. You can frequently find his name on a note with some female names who were probably part of the touring entourage.

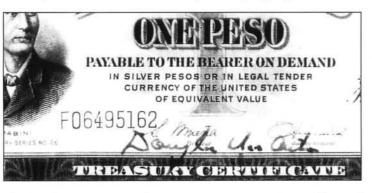
One of the most interesting notes I've seen is

owned by Mike Payton who wrote an article about the note for the *IBNS Journal*. It was signed by the crew of the gunboat *Panay* sunk by the Japanese on the Yangtze River.

But without a doubt the "King of Short Snorter Rolls" was owned by Grover Criswell. I saw this thing when Fred Schwan and I

visited Grover at his home a half dozen years or so ago. I think Grover told us he bought it out of a New York auction held by Stack's. It was tightly rolled and had to be somewhere between 12 and 15 inches in diameter. The total number of notes slips my mind, but it had to be 400 to 500 notes with a length up to 200 feet long.

I spent about three hours looking for notable signatures on the notes. The only one that I recognized was Joe Kennedy, who was the older brother of President John F. Kennedy. I wonder what happened to that roll? Was it sold before Grover died, or did it go into the estate?





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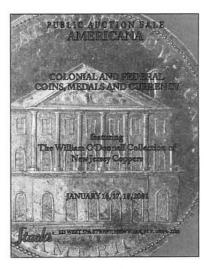
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2nd Annual George W. Wait Memorial Prize

Society of Paper Money Collectors Official Announcement

Purpose: The Society of Paper Money Collectors is chartered "to promote, stimulate, and advance the study of paper money and other financial documents in all their branches, along educational, historical and scientific lines."

The George W. Wait Memorial Prize is available annually to assist researchers engaged in important research leading to publication in the paper money field.

George W. Wait, a founder and former SPMC President, was instrumental in launching the Society's successful publishing program. The George W. Wait Memorial Prize is established to memorialize his achievements/contributions to this field in perpetuity.

Award: \$500 will be awarded in unrestricted research grant(s). Note: the Awards Committee may decide to award this amount to a single applicant, or lesser amounts totaling \$500 to more than one applicant. If, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, no qualifying applicant is found, funds will be held over.

Eligibility: Anyone engaged in important research on paper money subjects is eligible to apply for the prize. Paper Money for the purposes of this award is to be defined broadly. In this context paper money is construed to mean U.S. federal currency, bonds, checks and other obligations; National Currency and National Banks; state-chartered banks of issue, obsolete notes, bonds, checks and other scrip of such banks; or railroads, municipalities, states, or other chartered corporations; private scrip; currency substitutes; essais, proofs or specimens; or similar items from abroad; or the engraving, production or counterfeiting of paper money and related items; or financial history in which the study of financial obligations such as paper money is integral.

Deadline for entries: March 15, 2002

A successful applicant must furnish sufficient information to demonstrate to the Society of Paper Money Collectors Awards Committee the importance of the research, the seriousness of the applicant, and the likelihood that such will be published for the consumption of the membership of SPMC and the public generally.

The applicant's track record of research and publication will be taken into account in making the award.

A single applicant may submit up to two entries in a single year. Each entry must be full and complete in itself. It must be packaged separately and submitted separately. All rules must be followed with respect to each entry, or disqualification of the non-conforming entry will result.

Additional rules: The Wait Memorial Prize may be awarded to a single applicant for the same project more than once; however awards for a single project will not be given to a single applicant more than once in five years, and no applicant may win the Wait Memorial Prize in consecutive years.

An applicant who does not win an annual prize may submit an updated entry of the non-winning project in a subsequent year. Two or more applicants may submit a single entry for the Wait Prize.

No members of the SPMC Awards Committee may apply for the Wait Memorial Prize in a year he/she is a member of the awarding committee.

Winner agrees to acknowledge the assistance of the Society of Paper Money Collectors and the receipt of its George W. Wait Memorial Prize in any publication of research assisted by receipt of this award and to furnish a copy of any such publication to the SPMC library.

Entries must include:

- the full name of the applicant(s)
- · each applicant's social security number
- a permanent address for each applicant
- · a telephone number for each applicant
- the title of the research project/book
- sufficient written material of the scope and progress of the project thus far, including published samples of portions of the research project, in appropriate

Entries may also include:

- the applicant's SPMC membership number(s)
- · the applicant's e-mail address (if available)
- a bibliography and/or samples of the applicant's past published paper money research
- a photograph of each applicant suitable for publicity
- a publishable photograph(s) of paper money integral to the applicant's research
- a statement of publishability for the project under consideration from a recognized publisher

Judging: All entries must be received by March 15, 2002. All entries must be complete when submitted, and sufficient return postage should be included if return is desired. Address entries to George W. Wait Memorial Prize, P.O. Box 793941, Dallas, TX 75379.

The single, over-riding criterion for the awarding of the Wait Memorial Prize will be the importance of the publication of the applicant's research to SPMC members and the general public. All decisions of the SPMC Awards Committee will be final.

First publication of the awarding of the Wait Memorial Prize will be revealed in the May/June 2002 issue of SPMC's magazine, *Paper Money*, with subsequent news release to additional media.

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The PRESIDENT'S Column By FRANK CLARK

HOPE EVERYONE ENJOYED OUR SPECIAL international issue. I know I did. I enjoy reading about currency whether or not it is in my field of expertise. This issue is our special issue on World War II syngraphics. It is especially poignant with the comparisons of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the recent horrific attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

If you have already paid your dues for 2002, I want to thank you. If you have not, please take a minute and do so now so that you can keep receiving our award winning publication.

If you are a life member, you will have also received a dues notice. Please disregard it. We know that you are a life member, however it would be very difficult for the publisher to pull those notices out individually for each life member. That is why you have received a dues notice.

You will also note that you can make a fully tax deductible donation to enlarge our publication program. These gifts may be designated to the Wismer Fund (which subsidizes publication of our U.S. obsolete currency books), or the George Wait Fund (which annually awards research grants to authors of books in the fields of paper money, banking, engraving).

I hope to see you at the 16th National and World Paper Money Convention in St. Louis at the Airport Hilton Hotel, November 15th-18th. Besides the great bourse in this historic city, there will also be a SPMC general meeting.

-- Frank



SPMC Vice President Wendell Wolka (left) and new ANA President John Wilson display the engraved SPMC souvenir card which was distributed to those attending the Society's 40th Anniversary Party at this summer's ANA Convention in Atlanta, Ga. The card was engraved and printed by plate printer Michael Bean and donated to the Society by members Lee Quast and John Parker.

Nominations Open for SPMC Board

The following SPMC Governors' terms expire in 2002: Frank Clark, Gene Hessler, C. John Ferreri, and Arri Jacob.

If you have suggestions for candidates, or if the governors named above wish to run for another term, please notify Nominations Chairman Jimmie Ranes, P.O. Box 118333, Carrollton, TX 75011-8333.

In addition, candidates may be placed on the ballot in the following manner: (1) A written nominating petition, signed by 10 current members, is submitted; and (2) An acceptance letter from the person being nominated is submitted with the petition. Nominating petitions (and accompanying letters) must be received by the Nominations Chairman by January 15, 2002.

Biographies of the nominees and ballots (if necessary) for the election will be included in the March/April 2001 issue of *Paper Money*. The ballots will be counted at Memphis and announced at the SPMC general meeting held during the International Paper Money Show.

Any nominee, but especially first-time nominees, should send a portrait and a brief biography to the Editor for publication in *Paper Money*.

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By George Tremmel

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Confederate notes are among the earliest type of which written messages of the Short Snorter type are known. The 1861 Confederate \$50 note above, is still being researched to identify the parties who autographed it.



'Defaced' Notes Share Exciting Stories

By Richard Giedroyc

Atomic Short Snorter autographed by Wayne W. Seeley (below), who was assigned to the AKA47 U.S.S. Chara where he served as coxswain on an amphibious landing craft for the task force. The U.S.S. Cumberland was the flag and communications ship. According to Seeley, he was a "plank" or charter member of the Chara crew and spent his entire Navy career in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was involved in five amphibious invasions, was stationed on three other ships and was discharged from the Navy in 1947. He was not directly involved in any of the atomic bomb tests.

O SOME PEOPLE THEY ARE A BLIGHT ON THE HOBBY; to others they are an exciting area of paper money begging to be researched: These are the autographed notes commonly known as Short Snorters.

I have heard collectors and dealers suggest such notes are simply defaced, yet I have also heard enthusiasts say they find the notes to be treasured artifacts of a bygone era.

Paper bank notes have likely been autographed as souvenirs almost since the time the first printed notes were issued, however the earliest known such notes date from the American Civil War.

The currently accepted name "short snorter" is sometimes broadly used as a blanket umbrella term to describe any note on which someone has signed a name or scribbled a message. In the stricter sense, the term is reserved for a note on which the autographs were added while the parties were active in the military.





HAWAII overprint \$1 Silver Certificate of Series 1935A is signed by 10 individuals, two of which identify themselves as officers. The note also indicates these people had been in Canton (Ohio?), Palmyra and Pearl Harbor. The PBM-3-6466 at the bottom of the back may be a unit designation. This note is still being researched further.

Although such notes can be found dating from the time of the Civil War, the term short snorter originated in the 20th century in the United States.

According to some sources, in August 1925 barnstormer Jack Ashcroft was a pilot with Gates Flying Circus in Syracuse, N.Y. Ashcroft liked his women and liquor, calling his "occasional" drink a short snort. The circus owners sent Ashcroft and a second pilot to a Hammondsport winery for two planeloads of wine for a party (This was during Prohibition.). Ashcroft fell in love in Hammondsport and failed to return until a day later, at which time he was in trouble with circus owner Clyde Pangborn for his prolonged absense.

Ashcroft suckered Panghorn into giving him two dollars, a real bill and a stage dollar. Ashcroft signed the stage note "Short Snorter No. 1, Panghorn, Aug. 1925" and gave it to Panghorn, then signed

and kept the real note. More people signed notes during the champagne party following. The popularity of the idea spread and evolved into the tradition of American World War II aviators carrying such a note and showing it at a GI bar, otherwise being obligated to buy a round of drinks for the bar if a bell was sounded.

The idea quickly spread throughout the Allies, in the Army and Navy as well. Notes are known signed by Australian, British, Canadian, Republic of China, French and Portuguese soldiers, as well as by girlfriends, USO performers and by politicians.

Two of the most famous World War II short snorters are a note signed by aviator Joseph Kennedy Jr., older brother of President John F. Kennedy, and a Soviet note signed by several high level participants at the Yalta Conference in 1945.

Since that time notes have been signed during the Korean conflict, Vietnam War and virtually every other modern conflict.

Collectors generally prize notes the most on which the persons who signed the note can be identified or by signing



D-Day is memorialized on this Allied Military Currency 5-franc note (above) signed by Will McAulling of First Army Group and presented to his friend Francis J. Giedroyce, father of the current owner and author of this article. Giedroyce was in the second wave of U.S. Army soldiers to hit the beaches on that historic date.



French Allied Military Currency 50franc note signed by five New Jersey soldiers. Signer John W. Clayton served in France, England and the Netherlands between 1943 and 1945, including assignments with the 8th Air Force, 877th and 834th Engineers, where among other things he helped build emergency landing strips.



Acrobat and dancer Betty Yeaton, who signed the JIM 10-rupees note (right & below) while traveling with the a USO Show in Nationalist China, is shown here having lunch with W. Ashley Fry directly at her right (the author's father-in-law) following having signed the note. The photograph is dated Oct. 22, 1944 on the back. Also signing the note were Paulette Goddard, Keenan Wynn, Kurt Balentine, Jimmie Dodd, Harry Brian, Ruth Carrell, Andy Arcari, William Sargon, and Pat O'Brien (see this issue's cover).



This Canada 1937 \$1 note (right) was signed by five persons, one of whom added the date June 12, 1943 at the top on the back. The LDW initials also on the back may be the name of another individual.



the note helped to tell a story. As an example, a signed note may help identify the unit a person was in and, if also dated when signed, the note may help identify when and even where a specific unit was deployed. My collection includes several notes with later additional documentation obtained from those who signed them, having tracked the signer down these many years after the note was signed.

One such note is an Allied occupation 50-francs issued for France that was signed by five individuals who also provided their home addresses. In 1995 the author located John W. Clayton, receiving a detailed letter telling how he arrived in England in October 1943, then was assigned to the 8th and later to the 9th Air Force Group. He served in France with the 877th and 834th Engineers building emergency

landing strips, then went back to England where he helped assemble gliders. He was later wounded while in the Netherlands in 1944. Clayton was scheduled for deployment to the Pacific Theatre when the war ended.

Another example, a Netherlands Indies 50-cent note has the names and addresses of four men, one of whom was contacted about 40 years later and was good enough to write to me with further details of his World War II experiences. The author attempted unsuccessfully to contact the others who signed the note.

A note autographed by several USO performers and given to my fatherin-law while with the Signal Corps in China is accompanied by a recently discovered official army photograph of him having dinner with one of the female performers from the group!

Yet another good example is a Japanese Invasion Money half shilling note signed in Chinese characters in red ink which translates to the names of two National Chinese soldiers from Hong Kong.

Korean conflict and Vietnam War notes appear to be even more elusive.





Left: Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations often include the custom of adults giving money to children. This South Vietnam 50-dong note of 1969 to 1975 carries the message translating to "Jacqueline is wished a happy new year by Ng Uyen Mai." It is likely a Tet Offensive period issue during the Vietnam War. Below: Japanese Invasion Money half shilling note of 1943 designated for use in Oceania was signed in red ink by Republic of China soldiers Laio Ing Ging and Yo Tung Ho, who identify themselves on this note as having come from Kwang 'tung. This note was translated by workers in a local Chinese restaurant.

An interesting Vietnam War era note I have has a message in Vietnamese and is signed. The translation indicates the note was given to a young person as part of the custom of giving money on the Chinese lunar new year. Although the year the note was signed is unknown, the note was issued during the war.

One of my personal favorites is a 1953 Japanese 100-yen note signed by the Ink Spots, a well known quartet from the post-World War II era. Futher research is needed to find if and when the group traveled to Japan, possibly to entertain our troops in the occupied territory.

Yes, short snorters are technically defaced currency, but these defacements can make the difference between just being another nice note and one on which history has literally been written.





JAPANESE GOVERNMEN

Far left: This Series 521 (1958) Military **Payment** Certificate \$1 was signed April 22, 1958 by Keith Spaulding and Bailey Stewart, however neither hints at their unit nor rank. Below left: This Series 1928D U.S. Note \$2 was signed by nine individuals, however it is specifically marked as "Short snorter of William R. Lane, Marion, S.C." Left: Spectacular Barbados \$5 note of 1939 is

signed by 29 people on both sides. Barbados \$1 short snorter notes are known, but higher denomination notes had significant purchasing power at the time and are seldom encountered signed.



More Thoughts on Short Snorters

By Joseph Boling

HAVE LONG SEARCHED FOR NOTES THAT add to our knowledge of a series by virtue of their presence in short snorters. Examples of these are the Philippine "Co-Prosperity Sphere" notes. While replicas for collectors were reported long ago, I am not convinced that any (or at least any substantial quantities) were made, because over the years I have found just about every kind of CPS overprint in some sort of context that lends credence to its status as a vintage production.

Remember that GIs who saw a CPS note in someone else's short snorter would be inspired to create more, but would naturally create ones that were different from the ones that appeared first. Different fonts and production processes would be available to the later creators, so many varieties could be expected to exist.

Another class of notes that I love to find in short snorters are the Oceania replicas, thus showing that they actually were created for (or at least available to) contemporary GIs.

A Philippine piece, which falls into the commemorative short snorter class, is the 10 peso note overprinted to commemorate MacArthur's landing on Leyte (SB2235). Since publishing SB, we have realized that the date in the overprint is wrong; it says Oct. 19, 1944, but the landing did not take place until 20 October. Perhaps that is why so few survive; they were discarded when they became obsolete before being issued.

Yet another piece that I look for in short snorters is the Malaya \$5 with the "Grim Memories--VJ"overprint (SB2183). I have yet to find one.

In the other direction, we have notes with inscriptions that are known to be wrong, and that reflect inaccurate knowledge on the part of the original inscriber. An example of this is shown on SB page 314, where a Bank of Japan one yen note bears graffiti saying that the AMC yen were not valid in homeland Japan, which is incorrect.

Another aspect of short snorters is the potential for dating them based on non-date information written on them--such as the note's value in dollars. Many examples exist of AMC yen inscribed "worth xx cents." Because we know what the exchange rates were at various times during the occupation, we can normally date these inscriptions to within a few months (or even weeks).

How often can you link a short snorter back to a signer who did not keep it? One such fortunate find is a U.S. \$2 series 1928F note that I obtained from a bank in Australia while I was on R&R there in 1968. The inscription is "Dr. Fred Loukes, Cincinnati Ohio USA."

When the ANA was having its convention in



Gary Cooper (fourth from top) is among the signers of this Oceania one pound olive green unmarked replica note.

Cincinnati in 1980, I wanted to arrange a presentation of the note back to Dr. Loukes as publicity for the show. It turns out that he was a dentist, but was dead by 1980. His son did not want to arrange a ceremony to present the note to the widow, so my idea died. Too bad.

And just to show off, I have one short snorter with some VIP signatures on it--an Oceania one pound note (one of the olive green unmarked replicas!) with signatures of Phyllis Brooks, Gary Cooper, Una Merkel (all actors) and Nathan Bronstein (presumably a producer or USO escort), along with a few GIs. Unfortunately, not a junk box find--\$25 from Ted Uhl.



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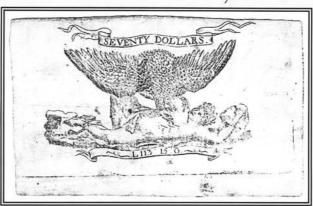
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\$70 Feb. 8, 1779 South Carolina Colonial Note

The Founding Fathers of our nation were fascinated with all things Greek--their democratic government, architecture and even their mythology. As a young country there were no guidelines prescribing the looks or denominations of our paper money. So when South Carolina bills of credit were authorized on Feb. 8, 1779, engraver Thomas Coram created a set of visually stimulating notes using mythology as his theme. The \$70 note, which also states its denomination twice as 113 pounds 15 shillings, shows the Greek mythological figure, Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods and gave it to mankind, on its back. As his punishment he was chained to a mountain where daily an eagle would swoop down and gnaw at his liver. Each night the eagle would leave, and his liver would grow back. Each day the process began anew. Zeus eventually freed Prometheus, but throughout history, Prometheus has symbolized unyielding strength that resists oppression.



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One note's story:

Long 'lost' note brings back memories

By Fred Reed

BEGINNING IN THE MID-1970s I WORKED in Sidney, Ohio, at a publication you may have heard of, Coin World: "The Weekly Newspaper of the Entire Numismatic Field." That publication had begun in April 1960, the brain child of local publisher J. Oliver Amos, who had inherited a family publishing business, the Sidney daily newspaper, and a large press with lots of down time.

Seeking additional work for his pressmen and machinery, he proposed publishing a weekly hobby newspaper. At that time, numismatic monthlies had been attempted by Chet Krause, Lee Hewitt, the Lawrence Brothers and of course the American Numismatic Association. Few in the coin trade believed a weekly publication would be viable.

Amos proved the gainsayers resoundingly wrong when his publication quickly climbed to paid weekly circulations of 175,000 copies.

With that large readership, millions of dollars in advertising revenue rolled in making his publication and wallet fat. Mail overwhelmed the local Post Office officials. The government established a sepa-

rate postal zone on the Amos Press loading dock.

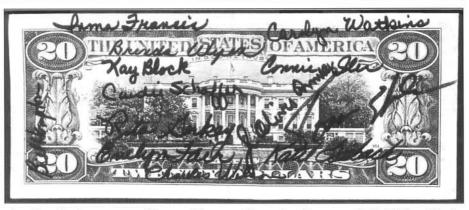
Just short of two decades after the founding of the publication, we did our 1,000th issue. The following spring as the 20th anniversary neared, Margo Russell who had succeeded Dick Johnson years before as *CW*'s Editor, decided we needed to commemorate the auspicious 1980 event, and somebody (I think it was probably Jay Guren or Courtney Coffing) suggested a short snorter: a signed note that linked all the signatories to a common event, time and place.

Appropriately the note selected was a Twenty. The double sawbuck was a then current Series 1977 on Philadelphia, serial number C 19204963 A. Lightly circulated, the \$20 was donated by *Coin World* Editor Margo Russell, who pulled it right out of her pocketbook, and years later confided to me that she didn't

think she ever got reimbursed out of petty cash.

It was passed around the office and signed on its face by Amos Press management and *Coin World* editorial staffers, including President J. Daniel Francis, Publisher John Amos, Clearinghouse Editor Marilyn Tiernan, Jane Hutchins, co-International Editors David T. Alexander and Courtney L. Coffing, Pat Boerger,





Sharon Maurer, Dorothy Cernyar, Bill Gibbs, Cindy Wilt, Jay Guren, Editor Margo Russell, and yours truly, then the publication's News Editor.

Signing the back of the note were *Coin World* founder J. Oliver Amos, and ad staffers Irma Francis, Brenda Wyen, Kay Block, Candie Schaffer, Rita Gerkey, Evelyn Fair, Bill Hampton, Carolyn Watkins, Connie Iler, Katie Eshback, Ad Manager Tom Ehler, and Assistant Ad Manager Charles Wilson.

Marilyn photographed the note and ran it in her "Collectors Clearinghouse" column in the June 11, 1980 issue. Shortly thereafter I ran off a commemorative label on our Compugraphic headline setting machine, glued it to an acrylic case, and carted the note to Memphis as a donation to SPMC's annual Tom Bain breakfast raffle. The short snorter was won in the raffle

















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In January 2002 the Euro will become the official currency of the 15 member European union. The Naples Bank Note Company has commissioned artist Chris McCauley to create a nonnegotiable collectible, the One Million Euro, commemorating this event. These notes will be issued in a limited edition of only 150,000.

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The Naples Bank Note Company Or visit our Website: www.banknotables.com 800-628-6298 Lynese Octobre, Inc. P.O. Box 5002, Dept. 33 Clearwater, FL 33758-5002 by Michigan collector Mart Delger, who annually headed up the exhibits at the show. After the breakfast I photographed Mart and emcee Wendell Wolka, spent a few bucks in the bourse, attended several club meetings, the auction, interviewed a slew of collectors and dealers, and headed back to Sidney to file my stories.

I also promptly forgot about the Coin World 20th

Anniversary short snorter.

Flash forward another 20 years. It's 2000, a new century, and I'm at Memphis setting up an exhibit detailing "Abraham Lincoln on Non-Federal Currency" when who comes up for a chat but Mart Delger. Both of us are decades older and wiser, but he is still exhibits honcho at Memphis.

Mart said he had something to show me. He pulled out the plastic case labeled "Coin World 20th Anniversary." Still inside was the autographed note with the signatures of all my former colleagues. He pointed to my bold strokes near the Federal Reserve Seal and we reminisced. Mart asked me about the whereabouts of some of the other signers and I filled him in the best I could.

Most of the 27 signatures on both sides of the note were penned boldly with a black sharpie. Although several of the signers have since passed on (notably J. Oliver Amos and Charlie Wilson) many of those individuals are still actively involved in the hobby. Bill Gibbs has my old job as News Editor of *Coin World* and recalled recently that somebody filled in his name because he was absent, covering a coin show. Dave Alexander is a cataloger at Stack's in New York and pens a monthly column on medals for his old employer. Courtney Coffing is retired from Krause Publications and recently came out with a revised edition of his catalog of notgeld. Of course, yours truly is now Editor of this publication.

Nineteen-eighty, the year we signed that note, was a great one for this hobby. Gold and silver were booming to unprecedented heights carrying collectable coins and paper money to then dizzying extremes. *Coin World* was a vigorous 20. The publication was booming. Subscriptions were rising. Page counts were enormous. Two section 160-180 page issues were the rule. That year, according to an industry survey, *Coin World* published more pages (editorial and advertising) than any other periodical but *Time* magazine -- and our pages were three times the size of theirs!

The news rooms, ad shop and production bay bristled. The signers of that note were busy people, linked by common goals, stressed by common burdens, and enjoying uncommon successes.

That summer at the nearby Cincinnati American Numismatic Association Convention, we published daily issues of *Coin World* and gave away another *Coin World* 20th Anniversary short snorter as a door prize at our convention booth. We also issued a *Coin World* 20th

anniversary medal which featured the famous Cincinnati Davidson-Probasco fountain. I still have the lead die trial. *CW* and all of us were very successful that year. J. Oliver Amos, the owner was pleased; at Christmastime he distributed the largest employee bonus in the firm's century long existence! It was one heck of a year.

Personally, it was a great year for me too. My wife Patricia and I celebrated our 10th anniversary. We had been blessed with both a fine daughter, Becky, and a fine son, Fred IV. We took a two week long vacation to Canada that is still a source of family pride.

I reflected over the note in Mart's hand. Dave Alexander and Bill Gibbs have remained friends for years and years. The forgotten faces of some of the others flashed briefly before my eyes. I remembered silly anecdotes about some of them and more serious times about others. I remembered attending Charlie Wilson's funeral the summer after the note was signed.

I remembered engaging Tom Ehler to become my advertising consultant at Beckett Publications years later. I remembered flying Bill Hampton and his wife to Dallas and trying to pursuade him into accepting a job there as my Ad Manager. There were others. Mart and I reminisced about "old times" and "by gones."

That bill was rich in memories for me, and Mart knew it. After two decades as its custodian, he decided to part with it. "Would I be interested?" Sure I would... but before we could strike a deal something else came up. I don't remember if he was distracted or if I was.

I came home from Memphis without that note, but surely not forgetting it again. I wrote Mart and made an offer. He accepted and said he'd bring it back to Memphis for me again this year. Well he did, and the *Coin World* 20th Anniversary short snorter is "home." It probably wouldn't be worth more than twenty bucks to most people. Outside of its holder, who could piece together the story it was meant to tell? Just 27 signatures on a double sawbuck to some, but it's both precious and priceless to this writer.

That's the essence of short snorters. We too were in the trenches waging a battle against unremitting deadlines under the watchful eye of a stern chain of command. That bill records the hands and the humanity that brought that publication to its thousands and thousands of readers at a given point in time. We shared good times and bad, and thought it worth penning our names to a piece of paper money to mark our publication's anniversary.

They don't make 'em like that anymore -- either the old style FRN or that capable and hard working group that fed Oliver Amos's presses week-in and week-out preparing all the hobby news that fit around a hundred-plus pages of ads attesting that numismatics was alive and thriving.

At 20, we also signed a note testifying Amos' Folly was doing just fine too, thank you! It still is.

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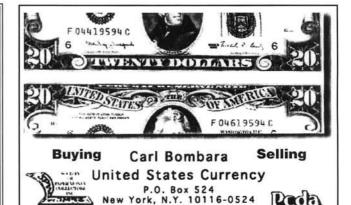
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Letter to the Editor

Greetings,

My first encounter with a short snorter "bankroll" was in the 1950s as a youngster. My Sunday school teacher was a WWII vet and brought his in and showed and explained it to the class on one Sunday morning. Needless to say the "seed was sown."

Cheers, Colin Bruce

research exchange: a service for SPMC members

 Artist Inquiry. Would like to know if anyone has any information as to whether Jacob Wrey Mould, an architect, did any vignette art or designs for bank notes. A broadside he issued in 1869 indicates that he offered this service. Contact Mark Tomasko, Box 834, NY, NY 10150-0834 or mntomasko@worldnet.att.net

• Roger B. Taney. I need, if there is one available, a photograph of a note with Justice Roger B. Taney. No one I have asked can even confirm his being portrayed on PM. There are two or so still unidentified portraits on Maryland PM that do not look too much like him, but you never know. Actually, his portrait on currency from any state will do. I also need a good quality picture of dueling pistols. Contact johnnybanknote@webtv.net or C. John Ferreri, PO Box 33, Storrs, CT 06268

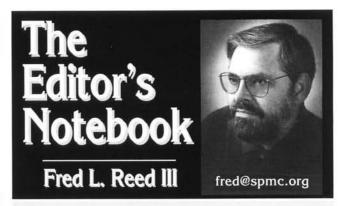
 Waterman Lilly Ormsby. For a future article in Paper Money, I am looking for a photograph or other illustration of 19th century bank note engraving genius Waterman L. Ormsby. Contact Robert McCabe, c/o Toxicology, 5426 NW 79th Avenue, Miami,

FL 33166 or fred@spmc.org

• New York Obsolete Bank Notes (1784-1865). Researcher requesting info for SPMC state catalog on banking details for NY obsolete notes. All information welcome. At the moment, I am interested in any notes from "The Woodstock and Saugerties General Manufacturing Co." at Saugerties. I am looking for information when the bank opened and for how long, who the President and Cashier were, year of issue of notes, capital at founding, etc. Will gladly reimburse cost and postage of material received. Contact jglynn@zoom.co.uk or John Glynn, 41 St. Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7ax, England

 Macerated Money. Wanted any information that would help in publishing a book on items made between 1874-1940 out of chopped up U.S. currency. Who made the products, where sold, etc.? Any help appreciated. Contact Bertram M. Cohen, 169 Marborough St., Boston, MA 02116-1830 or marblebert@aol.com

- Eastman College Currency. Authors jointly revising current catalog of Eastman notes. New listing will appear in Paper Money serially and subsequently as a separate pamphlet. Wanted xeroxes of unlisted notes, or census data of your current holdings. Contributors will be acknowledged or kept confidential, as you desire. Contact Fred Reed, P.O. Box 793941, Dallas, TX 75379-3941 or freed3@airmail.net or Austin Sheheen, P.O. Box 428, Camden, SC 29020
- Movie Money. Researcher attempting to catalog scrip used as money in motion pictures, TV & stage for future Paper Money series. Contact the Editor or Fred Reed at freed3@airmail.net
- Delaware Obsolete Notes and Scrip. SPMC state catalog researcher seeks information on existing notes, including serial and plate numbers. Records of other Delaware material such as old lottery tickets, vignettes, Colonials and National Currency are also being kewpt for population statistics. Will gladly pay copying costs and postage for pictures of your Delaware material. Contacts confidential. Contact napknrng@dmv.com or Terry A. Bryan, 189 South Fairfield Drive, Dover, DE 19901-5756



Remember Pearl Harbor + 60 Years

Many ARE EQUATING 9/11/01 WITH 12/7/41, the 60th anniversary of which we are marking with this special issue. You probably saw the movie *Pearl Harbor*, Jerry Bruckheimer's epic love-battle story starring Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett and Kate Beckinsale. Of course the actual battle 60 years ago led directly to the U.S. entry into World War II against the Axis Powers. One of the most enlightening articles of my young journalistic career -- some 30 years ago for the 30th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Hawaii -- was rounding up about a dozen survivors of that cataclysmic event. I wrote a "blockbuster" feature story for the Third U.S. Army HQs publication, *Lucky Times*. My purpose was not much different from the Hollywood producer's. We both sought to retell the story through the eyes of survivors and create a lasting recreation for our audience. Bruckheimer, alas, also had 140 million more dollars at his disposal.

One of the enduring legacies of World War II was the proliferation of a paper money phenomenon -- the Short Snorter. Since this issue marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of that war, we deemed it auspicious to launch the first of what we hope will be a string of topical issues of this magazine. This issue on short snorters is part historical research, part treasure hunt. Autograph hounds are generally excited to learn about the host note(s) and veteran syngraphists are diligent in researching the historical context

from which the short snorter emerged.

My Pearl Harbor anniversary story was pretty good, if I do say so myself. Movie mogul Bruckheimer's film did OK too (it grossed 197 million dollars), but even with his big budget the filmmaker didn't quite get everything right. When Cuba Gooding's cook character is boxing the Bluto machinist his manager Guy Torrey is clutching a fist full of greenbacks representing the take from the fight. The outside bill of the wad is clearly a \$5 HAWAII note. Nice try Hollywood. It shows somebody did some research and went the extra mile. Trouble is, in the context of the film that boxing match took place in August or early September 1941 (shortly after the scene we are advised it is three months later and it's still before Dec. 7, 1941). Those HAWAII notes weren't delivered until the following June -- at least nine months later!

A Special Note on this Issue

A tip of the cap to John Wilson for the photo of the note autographed by General Douglas MacArthur. Special thanks also to Fred Schwan and the *MPCGram* for permission to reprint the short snorter reflections of Messrs. Boling, Murray, Smulczenski, and Bruce. Free e-mail subscriptions to the (almost) daily e-gram on military money may be obtained from fred@papermoneyworld.com. Tell him we sent you. ❖

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- selected lots for the September CAA auction in Cincinnati will also be available for viewing through Heritage at the ANA convention in Atlanta in August
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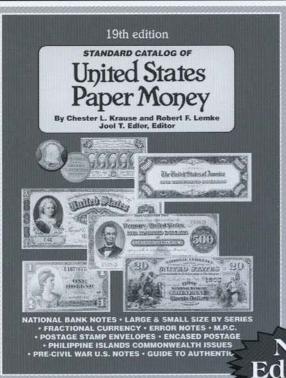
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